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ETHIOPIA

OFFICIAL VISIT OF CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA ENDS

Malmierca, PMAC Official Talk

LD211206Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] Standing Committee member in charge of information and public relations, Comrade Sublieutenant Tamrat Ferede, yesterday held talks with the Cuban foreign minister, Comrade Isidoro Malmierca Peoli.

Comrade Sublieutenant Tamrat and the Cuban foreign minister discussed means by which the two fraternal socialist countries will cooperate in their struggle against sundry attacks levelled against them by international imperialism.

Comrade Sublieutenant Tamrat explained that the Ethiopian revolution has advanced from a defensive to an offensive state at present as a result of the high degree of political consciousness, organization and (?arming) attained by the Ethiopian oppressed masses and the wholehearted support given to it by progressive forces.

Comrade Sublieutenant Tamrat noted that the Cuban people and government had been giving wholehearted support to the Ethiopian revolution. He stated that maximum effort should be exerted with the aim of resisting false propaganda spread by the imperialist mass media and noted that because of imperialism's class nature and background, the propaganda expressed will not be able to mislead world public opinion for long.

He noted that Ethiopia's underdevelopment and lack of progress in scientific and technical fields called for the contributions by friendly countries in Latin America, Europe and elsewhere, which were made accordingly. Comrade Sublieutenant Tamrat called on those countries to keep up their assistance.

The PMAC Standing Committee member revealed that the imperialists have been claiming that Siad Barre withdrew his invading troops from Ethiopian territory to give the false impression that Somalia is a peace-loving country and that Ethiopia was opposed to the cause of peace in the Horn of Africa. He went on to say that socialist Ethiopia views in the cause of her military, economic and political struggle imperialist maneuvers in the light of Marxism-Leninism. [sentence as heard]

In reply the Cuban foreign minister noted that the struggle being waged to counter adverse propaganda is of great importance for the progress of the Ethiopian revolution. He said that the information being disseminated by the mass media of the imperialists using satellites, newspapers and other means is intended to stifle the freedom of the oppressed peoples.

Comrade Malmierca observed that it was highly essential for Cuba and Ethiopia to wage a joint struggle to withstand the machinations of the imperialists in this regard, and condemned the evil designs of reactionary forces in the surrounding areas against revolutionary Ethiopia. He said serious efforts will be made to strengthen mass media cooperation between Ethiopia and Cuba.

Present during the talks were Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, minister of foreign affairs, and Comrade Ambassador Jose Perez Novoa of Cuba.

Visit Ends

LD211600Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1030 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Comrade Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, the foreign minister of Cuba, has confirmed that Cuba will give its unreserved support to the struggle of the masses of Ethiopia to safeguard their revolution and national unity.

The Cuban foreign minister confirmed this in a speech at a dinner party in Hararge Region given in his honor by the Provisional Military Administrative Council [PMAC] member assigned to the Hararge Region, Lt Col Zeleke Beyene.

In his speech, Comrade Isidoro Malmierca Peoli expressed his pleasure at visiting Ethiopia and said that the relations between Ethiopia and Cuba are a matter of pride. The profound sentiments of the peoples of the two countries engaged in various fields of struggle are evident. The minister went on to say that Cuba has an international obligation to support the Ethiopian revolution since it is just and genuine. All support to Ethiopia should be seen in this light.

In his speech, Comrade Isidoro Malmierca Peoli said that all the victories scored by the Ethiopian revolution will also strengthen the Cuban revolution.

Earlier, Comrade Lt Col Zeleke Beyene, PMAC member permanently assigned to the region, on behalf of local residents, expressed his pleasure at the visit of the Cuban foreign minister and his delegation to Hararge Region at a time when the oppressed Ethiopian people are waging a bitter struggle and are scoring great victories. The PMAC member pointed out that the progressive socialist countries have supported Ethiopia in its fight against internal subversive elements and international imperialism.

During the visit to Hararge Region, the Cuban delegation led by Comrade Isidoro Malmierca Peoli inspected weapons captured from invading Somali troops and those abandoned when the regular and militia forces crushed and drove out the Somali forces.

Comrade Isidoro Malmierca Peoli and his delegation were accompanied on the visit to Hararge Region by the PMAC members assigned to the region: Brig Gen Taye Tilahun, minister of defense; Col Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, minister of foreign affairs; Commander Lemma Gutema, administrator of the Hararge Region; and Zonal [as heard] leaders.

The delegation led by Cuban Foreign Minister Comrade Isidoro Malmierca Peoli has left for home at the end of its visit to Ethiopia.

In a statement he gave before departure at the VIP lounge at Bole International Airport, the Cuban foreign minister expressed his pleasure with the results of the visit. He said he and his delegation were glad to have had the chance to hold lengthy discussions with leaders of the revolution and to visit the area where the war had been fought against the invading Somali forces.

In his statement, the Cuban foreign minister said that during the visit there were not only lengthy discussions on the friendly relations between Ethiopia and Cuba, but also fruitful talks on international issues.

The minister pointed out that after having a lengthy and fruitful talk with Foreign Minister Dr Fel ke Gedle-Giorgis, the two sides yesterday signed a cultural agreement. They also signed an agreement which would strengthen relations between the two foreign ministries.

The minister expressed gratitude for the friendly and warm welcome accorded the delegation during its stay in Ethiopia. This, he said, demonstrated the friendly sentiments cherished by Ethiopians toward Cubans. He said he will apprise the government and people of Cuba of these sentiments.

The Cuban delegation was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Col Dr Feleke Gedle-Giorgis, Foreign Ministry officials, the Cuban ambassador to Ethiopia and the ambassadors of the socialist countries in Ethiopia.

ADDIS ABABA SAYS SOMALI OFFICIALS 'FORCIBLY DISARMED'

LD212040Y Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1730 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Reliable sources have disclosed that the reactionary Mogadiscio regime today disarmed the country's regional and district party chairmen. The sources disclosed that the regional and district party chairmen were called to Mogadiscio ostensibly for a meeting and were just (?forcibly) disarmed after having been assembled at a certain place.

According to the same sources, there is presently a complete breakdown of party apparatus and that deep division and conflict between progressive forces on the hand, and members of the reactionary Siad Barre clique on the other, is raging.

The sources noted that today's disarming of regional and district party chairmen is evidence of the fact that the worsening political situation in Somalia and antagonism among the opposing forces have reached a very critical stage.

ADDIS ABABA: ASSAB CITIZENS READY TO FIGHT SECESSIONISTS

LD220614Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Over 20,000 residents of the port town of Assab have expressed at a rally their readiness to be mobilized to fight secessionist groups in Eritrea region.

They expressed their preparedness to be deployed in the northern front at a mass rally they held to express their joy over the decisive victory scored by the revolutionary forces against the arrogantly deployed invading Somali troops in eastern and southern Ethiopia. Representatives of workers, urban dwellers' associations, women's cadres and the Afar nationality in Assab also pointed out during the rally that the inhabitants of Assab are more than ever before vigilant to safeguard the port facilities of the town and of the oil-refinery against sabotage by secessionist elements and other reactionary groups.

JIJIGA CITIZENS BEGIN TO RETURN FROM TEMPORARY SHELTERS

LD201610Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] One hundred and eight persons who were living in temporary shelter within Kebele-22, Higher 11 in Addis Ababa have left for their homes in Jijiga to resume normal life. The 108 persons were being assisted and living sheltered in Addis Ababa by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission [RRC]. [sentence as heard] RRC Commissioner Ato Shimeles Adugna urged the returnees, as they departed for Jijiga, to do everything possible to help themselves resume normal life in addition to the help and assistance being provided them by the broad masses and the government to rehabilitate them.

Meanwhile, nearly 3,500 persons living in temporary shelters in Diredawa and Harar have returned to their homes in Jijiga in the past 5 days.

The RRC is closely collaborating with the Ethiopian Electric Power and Light Authority and the Ethiopian Water Resources Commission to restore water and power supply in Jijiga, which was destroyed by the invading enemy troops of the reactionary Siad Barre regime.

CEMA DELEGATION LEAVES ADDIS ABABA, PLEDGES SUPPORT

LD171030Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1030 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] A high-level delegation led by Comrade E. Szopa, deputy secretary general of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance left for home last night at the end of their 1-week visit to Ethiopia.

The head of the delegation expressed satisfaction with what he had seen and further said that by establishing closer relations with the Ethiopian people, CEMA would do its best to contribute to and cooperate toward development projects in Ethiopia.

EXECUTIONS OF OPPORTUNISTS REPORTED IN ADDIS ABABA

LD201900Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Revolutionary punishment has been meted out to three individuals in Higher Eight urban dwellers association 14 of Addis Ababa, who have been confusing the people and working for personal advantage at the expense of the revolution. The three individuals acts aimed against the revolution and against unity were exposed by the broad masses and genuine militants. The criminal investigation department of the Addis Ababa police has released a statement on this.

EPRP MEMBERS DETAINED FOR 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY' ACTS

LD211126Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0500 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] In the (Tucha) Subdistrict of (Kuloaonta) District, in Kaffa, seven Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party [EPRP] members who had been committing counterrevolutionary activities in secondary schools have been detained after they had been unmasked at a teachers-students meeting.

KENYA

MINISTER FINED FOR SHOOTING THREAT, OTHER OFFENSES

LD162136Y Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] The minister for cooperative development, Paul Joseph Ngei, was today fined 2,000 shillings, or 6 months imprisonment in default, on charges of threatening to shoot Mr Washington Mudami with a pistol last November. The minister's car was slightly damaged in the accident.

Ngei was also found guilty on two other charges of driving a motor vehicle without due care and failing to produce an insurance certificate for his car to the police when he was supposed to do so. He was fined a total of 4,000 shillings or 12 months imprisonment in default in respect of the three counts.

The case was heard by a chief magistrate, Mr Fidahussein Abdullah.

SOMALIA

DANAB REPORTS SOMALI-ABO LIBERATION FRONT SUCCESSES

LD212028Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1850 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Somali-Abo Liberation Front inflicted heavy casualties in men and weapons on the troops of the unholy alliance of Russia, Cuba and their lackeys, in a recent encounter in (Boro) southwest of the town of (Gindid). The reports, which appeared in today's DANAB, the official paper of the Western Somali Liberation Front, added that the Abo Liberation Front taught the troops of the unholy alliance an unforgettable lesson and took some of them prisoners.

MOGADISCIO COMMENTS ON SOVIET INTEREST IN AFRICA

LD202038Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Station commentary]

[Text] Russia already declared that the war it is staging in the Horn of Africa will completely affect other Afro-Arab and African nations. Somalia has warned a number of times against the danger that may appear as the result of the recent Russian, Cuban and other involvement in the Horn of Africa crisis. This Russian declaration transmits its basic policy towards this region. Moscow, which eventually denied this, has recently accepted full involvement. Exactly, this has become a true witness of the Somali Government's statement that Russia and its allied forces are directly involved in the war. Moscow has released its involvement on the 15th of this month. [sentence as heard]

This current war, in its first phase, began with the fronts fighting the Abyssinian domination and now the fronts are confronting with Russia and its allies' forces in the Warsaw Pact. The question is: What had compelled Russia to take this step? Russia was recently seeking to set foot in this strategic area and when the Somali Democratic Republic turned down Moscow's demand it was accepted by the Addis Regime. **Mengistu**, the Addis junta leader, accepted the Russian obligations in order to try to wipe out the liberation movements on the one part, and the Abyssinian elite on the other.

Moscow, for a number of [word indistinct] is doing this (?with) intention. First, the target is to wipe out all liberation movements there. Russia wants to [word indistinct] an African coast, namely Abyssinian, and extend itself into Somalia, Djibouti, Sudan and other African countries. Russia also wants to fully control the strategic Red Sea, Indian Ocean and fully control the commercial movements in or from the Persian Gulf, East Africa, Australia, north and west Africa, Europe and the U.S.

Russia believes in the military and economic importance of these areas: 23 Russian strong (?naval) vessels are so far stationed in these areas. According to AL-ANBA of Kuwait, Russia has (?built) a strong airbase in Socotra. According to economic experts, Russia will run short of oil in the coming 10 years. Therefore, it wants to control the Iranian and Arab oil as well. The president of Maldive Islands, Mr Ibrahim Nasir, recently delcared that his government turned down a Russian request that his country hire an island called Gan for military purposes to fulfill the Russian interest. Russia through any means, wants to realize its ill objectives. Africa, which is a rich continent, is under full pressure from Russia which aims at exploiting its resources. This Russian recent statement is a warning only to both the Arab and African nations as well.

TANZANIA

DAR ES SALAAM REPORTS AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ARRIVAL

LD211902Y Dar es Salaam in English to East Africa 1600 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Dar es Salaam--The U.S. ambassador to the UN, Mr Andrew Young, said in Dar es Salaam today that he had come to southern Africa to confer with the African frontline leaders at a critical juncture both in Rhodesia and Namibia.

Mr Young, who is on a 1-day stopover in Dar es Salaam, told newsmen after arrival that the latest U.S. efforts have been to bring about a sense of urgency to the Zimbabwe peace initiatives. He said the so-called internal settlement in Rhodesia which was signed early this month by Ian Smith and the three nationalist leaders within Rhodesia has merely compounded the peaceful transfer of political power to the majority because it excluded the Patriotic Front. He said the U.S., Britain, the frontline states and the Patriotic Front must move together or else face a decade of confusion which would not benefit any one of them.

Mr Young leaves for Lusaka tomorrow to attend the week-long UN Council on Namibia.

Meanwhile, it has been learned in Dar es Salaam that the U.S. congressman, Mr Charles Diggs, will also stop over in Dar es Salaam tomorrow morning on his way to Lusaka for the meeting.

Nyerere, Young Talk

LD211820Y Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Dar es Salaam--President Nyerere has stressed that the frontline states in the liberation of southern Africa would continue to regard the Anglo-American proposals as the basis for genuine independence for Zimbabwe. He said that frontline states would not be prepared to accept a government in Zimbabwe which was being defended by an army of the rebel Smith.

Mwalimu emphasized that Smith's army must be disbanded and so should the entire structure of the administration.

Mwalimu who is the chairman of the frontline states in the liberation of southern Africa said this today in Dar es Salaam during his meeting with the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Andrew Young.

He said Britain, which is the ruler of Rhodesia, has at present a good opportunity of killing the rebel Smith and his administration as the entire world would support such a step.

On the Namibian issue, Mwalimu backed the current efforts of the five Western nations to try to resolve the crisis. He said the United Nations must be vigilant on both the Rhodesian and the Namibian issues.

TANZANIAN-MOZAMBIQUE ENVOYS' CONFERENCE ENDS

LD201148Y Dar es Salaam in English to East Africa 1000 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Arusha--The vice president, Ndugu Jumbe, said in Arusha today that the eternal duty of Tanzanians and Mozambicans is to identify and deal successfully with enemies of Africa who see Tanzania and Mozambique as determined opponents of colonialism and capitalism, as well as feudalism.

Closing a 12-day conference of Tanzanian and Mozambique envoys, Ndugu Jumbe said the two neighborly countries were bent on building socialism, and apart from consolidating existing brotherly relations, Ndugu Jumbe said, they must always insure that what they are striving to build is preserved, developed and consolidated. He said their success would help them find means of combating the intrigues that might be directed against the two nations of Africa and its people. The vice president reminded the envoys that the conflicts which bedevil Third World countries today were not accidental. They were indeed the result of the deliberate machinations to undermine solidarity, particularly among Third World states.

UGANDA

AMIN PRAISES FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA

LD181900Y Kampala International Service in English 1615 GMT 16 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Uganda's ambassador to France, Italy and Greece, Mr Emanuel Sendawula, has briefed Life President Amin on matters pertaining to the countries to which he is accredited, as well as on various development concerning bilateral relationship between Uganda and France, Italy and Greece. The field marshal commended Ambassador Sendawula for the briefing.

Dr Amin praised France because of the independent way as she acts without being pushed around by the other superpowers. [sentence as received] He said that France was now giving substantial technical assistance to Africa and the Arab countries.

Field Marshal Amin informed the ambassador that French assistance in this regard was not only restricted to former French-speaking countries in Africa and Asia, but was being extended to other countries, such as Pakistan, which is receiving French assistance in the production of her own nuclear reactor.

CHAD

MALLOUM EXPRESSES HOPE OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

PA211752Y Paris AFP in French 1509 GMT 21 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Ndjamena, 21 Mar (AFP)--The Chadian chief of state, Gen Felix Malloum on Tuesday expressed the hope that "the various factions which are to participate in the Sebha meeting will clearly outline their positions" and engage in "frank discussions" in order to effect a national reconciliation in Chad. At the end of a meeting with the Sudanese first vice president, Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, who made a service stop in Ndjamena on the way of Sebha, General Malloum emphasized that all Chadians desire such a reconciliation, "an indispensable condition for peace and for Chad's economic and social development."

"We hope," General Malloum said, "that the Chadian Government's good will will be met by similar good will from the other party."

GABON

FOREIGN MINISTER BONGO IN SPAIN WITH LETTER FOR JUAN CARLOS

For Madrid Domestic Service reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister Martin Bongo to Spain see the Spain section of the 16 March and subsequent issues of the Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

ZAIRE

CONGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER OBENGA VISITS ZAIRE

LD212302Y Kinshasa AZAP in French 1600 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpt] AZAP, Kinshasa--"I talked about the problems of bilateral cooperation with the president-founder of the MPR, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, and I am satisfied with the talks," stated the Congolese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, Mr Theophile Obenga, this afternoon shortly before leaving Kinshasa for Brazzaville at the end of a visit of several hours to the capital. He indicated that he had taken the opportunity of his brief stay in Kinshasa to present his condolences to the Zaire Government on the loss it had suffered in the person of General Ekuku, before thanking the president-founder of the MPR for Zaire's participation in the events marking the first anniversary of the death of Maj Marien N'gouabi.

ZAIRE EXECUTES 13 OF 14 SENTENCED FOR TREASON

TA171223Y Paris AFP in English 1220 GMT 17 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Kinshasa, March 17 (AFP)--Zaire today executed 13 of the 14 people sentenced to death for treason by a military court yesterday, it was announced here.

The 14th accused, a woman, was reprieved.

Zairese President Mobutu Sese Seko announced the executions and reprieve in a broadcast to the nation from the capital here this morning.

IVORY COAST

LABOR MINISTER HAILS GOOD LABOR-MANAGEMENT CLIMATE

PA152016Y Paris AFP in French 1551 GMT 15 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Abidjan, 15 Mar (AFP)--Ivoirian Labor Minister Vanie-Bi-Tra said on Tuesday that "social climate in Ivorian enterprises is good." The tension that had been noticeable several months ago on the social front has rapidly decreased, particularly following the recent government decision to increase salaries substantially by more than 25 percent in the public and private sectors.

NIGER

NIGER CALLS FOR END TO COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA

PA212011Y Paris AFP in French 1530 GMT 21 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Niamey, 21 Mar (AFP)--On occasion of International Antiapartheid Day, Niger issued today an appeal "for an end to all policy of economic, military and nuclear cooperation with the minority regime of Pretoria."

NIGERIA

NIGERIA, DPRK SIGN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

LD181142Y Lagos International Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] Nigeria and the DPRK have entered into a technical cooperation agreement. The agreement provides for the DPRK to assist Nigeria in developing and expanding a rice project in the rivers state. The DPRK will also provide experts and technicians to undertake feasibility studies of antiflood measures in the state. Nigerians will receive training in agricultural mechanization and the management of water resources.

TOGO

MAURITANIAN CHIEF OF STATE ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PA211920Y Paris AFP in French 1514 GMT 21 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lome, 21 Mar (AFP)--Mauritanian Chief of State Moktar Ould Daddah arrived in Lome late this morning for a short visit of friendship and work. Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema received him at the airport amid the songs and dances of the entertainment groups brought by the rally of the Togolese people.

According to observers, the Sahara issue may figure prominently in the talks. Togo, which was one of the first African states to recognize the Saharawi Arab Republic, has always held good relations with Mauritania. As regards President Eyadema, who 3 months ago received the Saharawi prime minister, he holds equally good personal relations with President Ould Daddah, and with Algerian President Boumedienne. Furthermore, the Togolese chief of state's role in the release in December of the French hostages kept captive by the POLISARIO is being remembered in Lome.

President Ould Daddah is scheduled to leave Lome for Gabon and Zaire on Wednesday.

ANGOLA

HAVANA REPORTS PAPLA GRADUATION CEREMONY

FL211859Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Angola has stated that the Zairian and South African governments continue increasing their military units for aggressive purposes and that there is concentration of tens of thousands of men belonging to the South African Army and counterrevolutionary Angolan groups in occupied Namibian teritory. The People's Republic of Angola Minister of Defense Iko Carreira, MPLA-Labor Party Politburo member, stated that the racist regime located more than 250 ground artillery pieces, mortars, 400 armored vehicles, ships and warplanes near Angolan borders.

Carreira' made his remarks in Huambo at the closing of the third officer training course of the Popular Armed Forces for Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] shortly after a large live fire exercise. The course completes the first phase of graduation and technical training of the FAPLA cadres who directly participated in the war against colonialism. Cuban and Soviet advisors attended the exercises.

NETO REJECTS RHODESIA'S INTERNAL SETTLEMENT

FL212115Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1918 GMT 21 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The president of the People's Republic of Angola, Agostinho Neto, has stated that his people categorically reject the so-called internal agreement for Zimbabwe which was sponsored by Ian Smith's racist regime. In a message sent on the occasion of day of Zimbabwe, Neto has reaffirmed the support of the MPLA-Labor Party for the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front which he called the only force capable of governing the destiny of that African nation.

Agostinho Neto asserted that the groups which signed the so-called internal agreement with Ian Smith cannot hide their collaboration with the enemy since they are lackeys of imperialism. In closing, the Angolan chief of state expressed his confidence in the victory of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front and in the attainment of true independence in that territory, which is dominated by a white minority racist regime.

MADAGASCAR

SPY TRIAL FOR AMERICAN, TWO SOUTH AFRICANS RESUMED

PA211424Y Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 21 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Antananarivo, March 21 (AFP)--A strong security force surrounded a military court today as the in camera trial of two South Africans and an American on spying charges resumed in the Malagasy capital here.

Only lawyers directly involved in defending John Ivan Wight, 33, a pilot, Dave Marais, 53, a diamond merchant, and American Edmund Henry Lapperman, 54, a diamond dealer, were admitted to the court room.

The three men were arrested in January last year when their Cessna-402 light plane made an unauthorised landing in Madagascar. Unconfirmed reports then said it was short of fuel, flying from South Africa to Mauritius, but was refused permission to land.

Today, the only local daily newspaper to report on the trial, the government-owned Madagascar MATIN, said the security measures were imposed because the trial involved espionage.

Observers here said the verdict would probably be public. It was expected later today.

The charges are: landing with the aid of the "racist South African regime" to organise an armed uprising against the Malagasy Republic, attempting to smuggle arms into the country, and trying to create a state of anarchy in the country with the help of the Pretoria regime. They carry the death penalty. The trial opened yesterday.

Prison Sentences

OW221120Y Paris AFP in English 1118 GMT 22 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Antananarivo, Madagascar, Mar 22 (AFP)--A military court here today sentenced two South Africans and an American to five years imprisonment each on charges of spying.

MADAGASCAR REITERATES SOVEREIGNTY OVER NEARBY ISLETS

PA211921Y Paris AFP in French 1751 GMT 21 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Antananarivo, 21 Mar (AFP)--A Foreign Ministry communique issued today states that "the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar [RDM], which is determined to safeguard the inalienable character of its territory, firmly reiterates that the Glorioso, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas de India islets are an integral part of the national territory of the RDM."

The communique indicates that following a study of the decree adopted by the French Government on 3 February regarding the creation of an economic zone around those islets, the RDM Government "reiterates that they fall under the exclusive sovereignty of the RDM and that the application of the decree will in no case impair the sovereignty that the Malagasy Government exercises over those islets."

MOZAMBIQUE

CHISSANO DISCUSSES NAMIBIA WITH UN DELEGATION

LD162043Y Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 15 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Text] Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano this evening will meet with (Iaksa Patrick), leader of the delegation of the UN Council for Namibia, which is here for talks on this territory.

In an interview for Radio Mozambique, the UN delegation leader said he has already held talks with Sergio Vieira, a people's assembly deputy, and with Oscar Monteiro, minister of state in the office of the president. (Patrick) said that in these talks they dealt with many problems connected with the struggle in Namibia led by SWAPO.

(Isksa Patrick) also said that his delegation had been in Tanzania before coming to Mozambique and that another delegation had been sent to Algeria, Nigeria and Gabon. The UN delegation chief added that the two UN delegations will meet in Lusaka for a special session of the UN Council for Namibia to prepare the conference on Namibia to be held on 21 April in New York. At the Lusaka meeting the reports of the delegations which visited various African countries will be examined.

Asked by Radio Mozambique about the United Nations' position on South Africa's annexation of Walvis Bay port, the UN member said the United Nations does not recognize the annexation of the Namibian port. We at the United Nations have always considered Walvis Bay an integral part of Namibia. The UN member said that what South Africa intends is to deny Namibia an outlet to the sea in order to control the economy of an eventually independent and free Namibia. (Isksa Patrick) added that, for the United Nations, any solution for the Namibian problem requires the withdrawal of all military and paramilitary forces from the territory.

RHODESIA

INTERIM GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FORMED

LD211147Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1147 GMT 21 Mar 78 OW

[Text] Salisbury, March 21 (AFP)--An interim government was officially established in the Rhodesian capital at midday (1000 GMT) today.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the Reverend Ndabaninigi Sithole and Chief Jeremiah Chirau were sworn in officially and, with Premier Ian Smith, formed the Executive Council to lead Rhodesia to black majority rule under the March 3 internal settlement agreement.

The new Executive Council will be chaired by each of the four members in turn, and its decisions will be taken by consensus.

Smith Elected First Chairman

LD211900Y Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Ian Smith, is the first chairman of the Executive Council, the upper tier of the interim government. Mr Smith told newsmen outside his office that he was appointed as the result of a ballot. The next chairman will be Chief Chirau, followed by the Rev Ndabaningi Sithole and then Bishop Muzorewa. The council will meet again next week to discuss the formation of the Council of Ministers. The three black leaders took the oath of allegiance this morning at a ceremony at the prime minister's official residence. They were sworn in by a black bishop, the right Rev Patrick (Murindagoma).

WAR COUNCIL REPORTEDLY TO BE RECONSTITUTED

LD221056Y Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] A South African Press Association [SAPA] report says there are indications that the day-to-day running of the terrorist war will be taken out of the political arena. The agency, quoting qualified sources in Salisbury, reports that the Rhodesian War Council has been cut from 10 members to 5 with some civil servants assuming responsibility previously reserved for ministers.

The sources said that until yesterday the War Council included the ministers of combined operations and internal affairs, the cabinet secretary, Mr Gaylard, and the ministerial secretaries, as well as the commanders of the army, air force, combined operations and police. It was chaired by the prime minister, Mr Ian Smith.

SAPA says the new council, which is said to have met for more than 4 hours yesterday, is comprised of the secretary for internal affairs, the police combined operations, with Lt Gen Peter Walls acting as chairman.

UANC OFFICIAL PROMISES NO 'SWEEPING NATIONALIZATION'

LD220742Y Johannesburg International Service in English 0400 GMT 22 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The vice president of the Rhodesian United African National Council [UANC] Mr Bwile has assured Rhodesian industrial leaders that his party will not embark on a policy of sweeping nationalization.

Addresssing the Institute of Chartered Secretaries in Salisbury, he said that Bishop Muzorewa's UANC believed in a free and open economy, with limited state direction. Having seen the results of nationalization in other countries, the UANC was against such a move. There would be no busing of children to school, and no takeovers of productive white (?farms).

SOUTH AFRICA

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES NEED FOR ALLIANCE OF MODERATE FORCES

LD192258Y Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 19 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The director of the South African Foreign Affairs Association, Mr Cass de Villiers says South Africa should take the initiative in a new southern Africa dialog for the formation of an alliance of the moderate forces on the subcontinent.

He said in a radio interview in Johannesburg that the establishment of such an anti-communist bloc would make the moderate countries of southern Africa far more accessible to the West and much easier to defend. Mr de Villers cited Zambia with her current economic crisis as an ideal starting point for a new South African effort at dialog. He expressed the opinion that any such move towards a moderate southern African alliance against communism would stimulate international reconsideration of the south and southern African posiion.

P.W. BOTHA STRESSES STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF S. AFRICA

LD181654Y Johannesburg International Service in English 2112 GMT 17 Mar 78 LD

[Interview with P.W. Botha, South African minister of defense, with unidentified questioner on "South African Panorama" program--date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] Soviet maneuvering in Africa, coupled with the arms embargo recently imposed against South Africa, has doubtless created difficulties for this country, particularly in (?seaward) defense.

The minister of defense, Mr P.W. Botha:

[Begin recording] We have for many years warned against the developments taking place in the Horn of Africa, but no notice was properly taken of our warnings. The role of the Republic of South Africa, as previously stated, consists of a positive contribution to the protection of shipping by providing vital maritime facilities. This role is unchanged and has been emphasized by the growing Soviet influence. The West does not accept the Republic of South Africa's contribution, and arms embargoes reduce our capability to make a meaningful contribution. But apart from [word indistinct] there is also the industrial potential of the Republic of South Africa, which should not be underestimated. Furthermore, our overflights and landing facilities are of vital importance.

[Question] During World War II relatively few U-boats took a very heavy toll of shipping off the South African coast. In a war situation with many more and highly sophisticated submarines (?infesting) the coast how could south Africa cope?

[Answer] It cannot, of course, be expected (?that) the Republic of South Africa to carry such a burden alone on behalf of other people. [sentence as heard] The presence of submarines in our waters emanates from the naval activities of superpowers. We can only offer you our support in this regard provided we are not denied the vital equipment necessary in this role. The vast majority of shipping in our waters is foreign and the responsibility for their governments. The Western countries would (?be) wise to consider the possibility that the Republic of South Africa will not be readily available if they continue to treat us in the way they are acting at present. [end recording]

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA RETURNS TO LUSAKA AFTER TALKS IN MOZAMBIQUE

LD001016Y Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Mar 78 LD/CA

[Text] President Kaunda yesterday returned to Lusaka from Nampula, Mozambique, where he held a 2-day bilateral talks with President Samora Machel of Mozambique. The president was given a thunderous sendoff by thousands of Nampula residents, who displayed traditional dances at the airport.

Although the theme of the meeting between President Kaunda and President Machel was not immediately established, it is believed the two leaders had exhausted matters relating to the recent unprovoked attack by racist Ian Smith's soldiers on Mozambique and Zambia. The meeting, which began on Saturday, ended yesterday morning.

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